

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 17, 21, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claim 20 has been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-19 and 21-24 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Mishima, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,009,236) patent. The Examiner has objected to applicant's claims 5 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 5 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner has also objected to applicant's claim 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has found claim 20 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1, 9, 17, 21, 23 and 24, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 17 has been amended to recite the features of the allowable dependent claim 20. In particular, applicant's independent claim 17 has been amended to recite that the reproducing means also reproduces motion information indicating a movement of an image relating to the image data recorded on the recording medium, and that the mode change means changes the reproduction mode according to the motion information reproduced by the reproducing means. The Examiner has acknowledged that the cited art does not teach or suggest the reproducing means indicating movement of an image and the mode change means reacting to the motion information. Applicant's amended independent claim 17, which recites these features, therefore patentably distinguishes over the cited art of record.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 9, 21, 23 and 24 have been amended to better define

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applicant's invention. In particular, applicant's independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite a reproducing apparatus comprising reproducing means for reproducing image data from a recording medium, the reproducing means reproducing the image data at a speed higher than a normal reproduction speed in a high-speed reproduction mode, storage means for storing a plurality of pictures of the image data reproduced by the reproducing means, and forming means for dividing each of the plurality of pictures of image data stored in the storage means into a predetermined number of regions corresponding to the speed at which the image data is reproduced in the high-speed reproduction mode, and for forming one picture of high-speed-reproduction image data by using the different divided regions of the plurality of pictures of image data. Applicant's independent claims 21, 23 and 24 have been similarly amended. Applicant's independent claim 9 has been amended to recite the reproducing means being arranged to reproduce the image data at different reproduction speeds and the forming means dividing each of the plurality of pictures of image data stored in the storage means into a predetermined number of regions corresponding to higher one of the different reproduction speed at which the image data is reproduced.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1, 9, 21, 23 and 24 are not taught or suggested by the cited Mishima, et al. patent. In particular, the Mishima, et al. patent is completely silent as to the relationship between the number of areas into which a picture frame is divided and the reproduction speed of the high-speed reproduction. Specifically, Column 14, lines 1-13 of the Mishima, et al. patent merely disclose one frame of the I and P pictures being divided into n areas, such that at the time of special playback, the regions of the n areas are read to form a picture of one screen portion which is outputted as a playback picture.

Column 15, lines 17-24 of the Mishima, et al. patent disclose that the I picture, which is subjected to the intra-frame coding, is divided depending on the frequency area, the quantizing level and the space resolution, and in Column 28, lines 54-60 that the I picture is divided into three areas as shown in FIG. 18. The division of the picture and the number of areas into which the picture is divided in the Mishima, et al. patent thus appear to be independent of the speed of the reproduction mode.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Mishima, et al. patent of dividing each of the plurality of pictures of image data into a predetermined number of regions corresponding to the speed at which the image data is reproduced in the high-speed reproduction mode. Likewise, the Mishima, et al. patent does not teach or suggest dividing each of the plurality of pictures of the image data into a predetermined number of regions corresponding to the higher one of the different reproduction speed at which the image data is reproduced. Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 9, 21, 23 and 24, each of which recites one or more of such features, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Mishima, et al. patent.

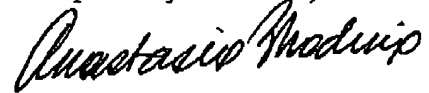
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 790-9286.

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Respectfully submitted,



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